NOTE XIV.

REPORT ON BIRDS FROM THE NETHERLANDS RECEIVED FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 1908 TILL 1 SEPTEMBER 1909

BY

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(With plate 6).

In my paper on the Avifauna of the Netherlands, which I published in the preceding volume of this periodical, I gave a list of all the species observed in our country and an account of the most interesting specimens in the collection of our Museum, with the number of the specimens of each species received during the last years. In those four years, from 1 September 1904 till 1 September 1908, the collection of indigenous birds has been enlarged with about 1900 skins, by donation as well as by purchase. In the academical year from 1 September 1908 till 1 September 1909 this collection has been augmented again with about 675 skins, among which are three specimens belonging to two species, *Megalestris skua* and *Serinus serinus,* which were not represented in our collection of native birds. Our collection of indigenous birds becomes by little and little the standard-collection for the study of the avifauna of the Netherlands; it is at present by far the largest and the most complete collection in our country, though, as shown in my list of the Netherland birds, still some rare examples are desiderata to us. Yet, many species are still insufficiently represented and more material, especially that, collected during the breedingperiod, is wanted. Also the collection of the eggs of our birds is not at all up-to-date. The old collection, chiefly originating from Schlegel's time, fifty at sixty years ago, is of no great value, as the eggs have been exposed to daylight during several years, most of the smaller eggs are very badly blown and the eggs have been preserved in a quite wrong manner, the eggs being left in the nests. It is therefore no wonder, that this collection also requires new material. This year about 560 eggs have been added to the collection. I am sorry that I must state here, that only a very small part of the acquisitions have been presented to us, by far the largest part has been purchased. In opposition to what we read in the annual reports of foreign musea, our museum is presented with very few objects, from our mother-country as well as from our colonies. Yet I believe, that if people knew, how good we can use different specimens, we should receive more; f. i. how many birds of prey, which are very welcome to us, are shot down or caught in traps and innocently thrown away! Here I have the pleasure to mention the following gentlemen, who kindly presented us with specimens for our collection of native birds: D. Bakker, Dr. J. F. van Bemmelen, F. E. Blaauw, J. Boonstra, Ch. J. H. Dumont, R. van Eecke, Jhr. W. C. van Heurn, J. H. Houbolt, H. Leyborne Popham, Jhr. K. W. L. de Muralt, G. R. Peck, F. H. Verster, F. A. Verster van Wulverhorst, J. C. Wäkerlin, P. J. Weyenbergh, L. de Wilde and Mr. R. Baron van Zuylen van Nyevelt. I once again recommend here our collection in the kind favour of every one, who interests himself in our National Museum.

In the following lines the most important additions are mentioned.

Podiceps grisegena (Boddaert).

This winter I received four adult specimens in winter plumage, shot 10 December 1908, 2 and 14 February 1909 near Texel. A young male in the first plumage with the striped sides of head and throat and with the dull red fore neck was shot 21 August 1909 at Nieuwkoop. This species surely breeds on the lakes near Leyden.

Podiceps auritus (L.).

We received five specimens in winter dress; one, shot 2 November 1908 at Zoeterwoude near Leyden, and four, shot 4 and 26 February and 16 March 1909 near Texel.

Podiceps nigricollis Brehm.

Of this species, which in my former contributions I could not mention as being received by our Museum during the last years, I purchased this winter three examples, all in winter dress, viz.: ♂, 1 December 1908 near Texel; ♀, 5 January 1909 near Texel and ♀, 25 February 1909 near Texel.

Colymbus arcticus L.

Two specimens in winter dress are received: ♂, shot 27 January 1909 near den Helder and ♀ of very small size, wing only 260 mm., 26 February 1909 near den Helder.

Sula bassanus (L.).

In my former list I could mention only adult examples of this species. Last year we received two young birds, ♂ and ♀, shot 4 and 5 November 1908 near Texel and an adult ♂, found dead on the shore near Cocksdorp, Texel.

Botaurus stellaris (L.).

We received a female, that has been killed 21 January 1909 at Beek near Breda. In winter this species occurs rarely.

Phoenicopterus roseus Pallas.

A second example of this Flamingo has been shot in our country about at the same spot where the first specimen has been killed. The bird was swimming in sea off the coast of Friesland near Cornwerd and was shot on 15 November 1908 by a fisherman, who thought it was a swan. It is an adult male in most perfect plumage. Whether we have to do here with a bird escaped from captivity or with a wild bird, can not be said with certainty; both possibillities are equally probable.

Cygnus bewickii Yarrell.

We purchased two adult specimens, ♂ and ♀, which have been shot in the middle of March 1909 on the Zuiderzee near Kampen.

Branta bernicla glaucogaster (Brehm).

According to Sir R. Payne-Gallwey, one may shoot an entire winter on the shores of North-Holland, without being able to kill, or even to see, a brent with a white abdomen (Alphéraky, the Geese of Europe and Asia, 1905, p. 161). It is a fact, that the light-bellied brent is a rare visitant to our shore, but that it is not to be found here, is a mistake. As I have shown in my list of the birds of the Netherlands, there are three examples in our old collection and this year I received two other examples, a female, shot 4 February 1909 on Texel and a female, shot 17 February at Noordwijk aan Zee. All the specimens of this form in our possession are females.

Aythia nyroca (Güldenstädt).

The series of this species has been enlarged with four examples from our country, viz.: ♀, shot 10 November 1908 at ter Aar, province Zuid-Holland, two ♂♂, both in nuptial dress, shot 13 March 1909 at Leimuiden, and ♂ in change, shot 19 July 1909 at Nieuwkoop. In one of the males shot 13 March there is a large white spot on the chin, whereas in the other one there are only a few white feathers on the chin.

Fuligula fuligula (L.).

Of *Fuligula fuligula* I received in the last months some specimens in interesting stages of plumage, that were totally unknown to me and that were not represented in the series of this species in our general collection. These specimens necessitate me to revert to the example, which I mentioned last year as being a hybrid between *Fuligula fuligula* (L.) and *Aythia nyroca* (Güldenstädt) (Notes Leyden Museum, XXX, 1908—'09, p. 150, pl. 7) but which I consider now as an adult female of *Fuligula fuligula* changing from the summer plumage into the winter plumage.

This year I received two females, shot 26 July (plate 6, fig. *b*) and 12 August 1909 (plate 6, fig. *a*) at Nieuwkoop, in which the whole undersurface is dark brown, the feathers being edged with pale brown or with whitish. A few pure white feathers are to be observed between the brown feathers, when lifting up these. In a female shot 24 August 1909 (plate 6, fig. *c*) at Nieuwkoop, the feathers of the undersurface are dark brown, those of the middle of the breast, of the sides of the breast and of the vent broadly edged with white, so that the undersurface is much more white than in the two preceding specimens. Also in this example a few white feathers, especially on the breast, are scattered between the brown ones. This specimen is much like the female, which I described and figured last year as a hybrid. In a female shot at the same date and at the same place (plate 6, fig. *d*) the feathers of the breast and vent are white, but some brown feathers with white edgings are scattered between them. The two last-named birds have been sexed by myself, they were old females, at least in their second year.

The specimens with the brown undersurface are in the summer plumage, which is laid on as breeding has commenced and which is worn by the birds for only about two or three months, as already in the last of August or the beginning of September the white feathers of the winterplumage appear between the feathers of breast and vent, and replace the brown feathers of the summer plumage.

Old females in winter plumage have the lower breast and the upper vent pure white, the dark brown upper breast sharply defined from the white lower breast (plate 6, fig. *e*, *g*). The lower vent and the under tailcoverts are dark brown, the feathers more or less edged with whitish, in most of the examples; only in one specimen, shot 14 February 1906 at Nieuwkoop (plate 6, fig. *f*), the under tailcoverts and the lower vent are white.

In females of the first year the dark brown upper breast, the feathers of which are edged with whitish, is less clearly defined from the white lower breast; the vent and under tailcoverts are dark ashy brown, more or less broadly edged with white and also not sharply defined from the white lower breast (plate 6, fig. *h*).

The amount of white feathers at the base of the bill varies much; in adult as well as in young females there are white feathers at the base of the bill; sometimes these feathers are almost wanting, both in old and in young females. Also the white on the chin varies considerably; in some specimens, adult and young ones, the whole chin is white, whereas in other ones white feathers are not to distinguish.

Harelda hyemalis (L.).

We received again several adult specimens in the last of December 1908 and in January and February 1909 from Texel and den Helder, and besides these, two specimens shot on inland waters, viz.: a young male, shot 3 November 1908 at Nieuwkoop, and a young female, shot 18 November 1908 at Voorhout, province Zuid-Holland.

Somateria mollissima (L.).

Not less than 13 specimens I received last year. A male in change was shot 4 September 1908 on the shore of the province Zeeland, exact locality not given; in the beginning of January 1909 Messrs. H. Leyborne Popham and G. R. Peck presented to our collection 9 specimens, males in change and females, shot in the Veeregat near

Veere, province Zeeland; three further specimens were received, two shot near Texel 29 December 1908 and 27 January 1909, the other 1 January 1909 on the Zuiderzee near den Helder.

Grus grus (L.).

A young female, shot 28 October 1908 at Deurne, province Noord-Brabant, is presented to our collection by Mr. R. van Eecke.

Crymophilus fulicaria (L.).

I purchased two examples, a male in winter dress, shot 3 December 1908 near Texel and a specimen, also in winter dress, in which the sex could not be determined, shot 3 December 1908 on the Zuiderzee near the Anna Paulownapolder.

Megalestris skua (Brünnich).

The most important additions to our collection of indigenous birds are two specimens of the great skua, which we received this winter; a female, shot 5 December 1908 on the sandbank „Razende Bol" near Texel, and a male, shot 12 March 1909 near the polder „Eendracht" in the north of Texel.

Stercorarius pomarinus (Temminck).

We purchased one specimen, a male, caught in the middle of December 1908 near Hornhuizen, Groningen. It is a bird of the second year; back, rump, wings and tail dark brown, the feathers edged with pale cinnamon; head and undersurface greyish brown, obscurely barred with pale greyish cinnamon; sides of body and under tailcoverts more distinctly barred; under wingcoverts and axillaries blackish brown, barred with white. Wings damaged, bill 34,5 mm.

Stercorarius parasiticus (L.).

We received two young specimens in the dark brown, varied with pale cinnamon plumage, viz.: ♂, shot 8 September 1908, on the sandbank „de Hors" near Texel (wing 320, bill 29 mm.) and ♂, shot 17 December 1908 near Texel (wing 312, bill 30 mm.). Further two adult specimens in full plumage, both belonging to the pale-breasted phase, viz.: ♂, shot 3 May 1909 in the Anna Paulownapolder, Noord-Holland (wing 350, elongated tailfeathers 233, bill 32 mm.) and ♂, shot 10 August 1909 near den Helder (wing 330, elongated tailfeathers 215, bill 31 mm.).

Larus argentatus Brünnich.

A clutch of three eggs of this gull, that I found on the dunes of Wassenaar, 18 June 1909, consisted of two normally coloured eggs and one, of which the ground-colour is heron-blue, minutely speckled with pale greyish and with a few large spots of dark olive-brown and black and some clouds of very pale greyish violet, especially at the broad end. All three eggs are of normal size.

Larus minutus Pallas.

Of this little gull I received the following specimens:

ad. ♀♀, winter plumages, 1 December 1908, near Texel.
young ♂♀, 3 December 1908, near Texel.
ad. ♂, winter plumage, 5 December 1908, near Texel.
young ♂, 9 December 1908, near Texel.
young ♂, 17 December 1908, near Texel.
ad. ♀, in full plumage, 8 May 1909, near Texel.
ad. ♂, in full plumage, 12 May 1909, near den Helder.
young ♂, 12 May 1909, near den Helder.
young ♂, 23 May 1909, near Texel.

Hydroprogne tschegrava (Lepechin).

We purchased the skin of an adult specimen in nearly full plumage, shot in June 1908 by ternshooters on the Zuiderzee near Lemmer, province Friesland. This is the third specimen in our collection of this in our country extremely rare bird.

Uria troille var. *ringvia* Brünnich.

A specimen in winter plumage of the ringed variety, a female, was shot 10 December 1908 on the sandbank „Onrust" near Texel and purchased for our collection.

Turdus merula L.

An old male in pure black plumage, but with white forehead and crown and with some white feathers at the sides of the neck, was caught on Texel 27 November 1908, and purchased four our collection.

Corvus cornix L.

A male, shot 16 February 1909 at Westernieland, Groningen, is interesting, as the grey feathers of breast, sides of body and hind neck are minutely and obscurely barred with somewhat darker grey; the feathers of the back show, under certain light, also obscure bars.

Corvus corax L.

We received one specimen, a female, shot 11 March 1909 near den Helder, when the bird was flying over sea.

Serinus serinus (L.).

This species was still wanting in our collection of native birds. In the last of April 1909 a male was captured near Harderwijk, prov. Gelderland, and purchased for our collection.

Loxia curvirostra L.

The common crossbill has been observed in large numbers in our country this summer; already in the middle of June large flocks have been seen. I received 19 specimens from Harderwijk and from Texel.

One male, a young one in the red-yellow, mixed with grey plumage, is interesting by the conspicuous white margins to greater and median wingcoverts. The wing in this specimen measures 93 mm. We have more such examples with white margins to the wingcoverts in the collection, among which an example presented by C. L. Brehm in 1848 s. n. *Crucirostra rubrifasciata*. Formerly I thought, these were hybrids between *Loxia curvirostra* L. and *L. bifasciata* (Brehm), but now I am with Dr. Hartert, who considers them as individual aberrations (Vög. paläarkt. Faun. Heft II, 1904, p. 118).

Leyden Museum, September 1909.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE.

Females of *Fuligula fuligula* (L.).

Fig. *a*, 12 August 1909, Nieuwkoop. Summer plumage, adult specimen.

Fig. *b*, 26 July 1909, Nieuwkoop. Summer plumage, adult specimen.

Fig. *c*, 24 August 1909, Nieuwkoop. Summer plumage, adult specimen.

Fig. *d*, 24 August 1909, Nieuwkoop. In change, adult specimen.

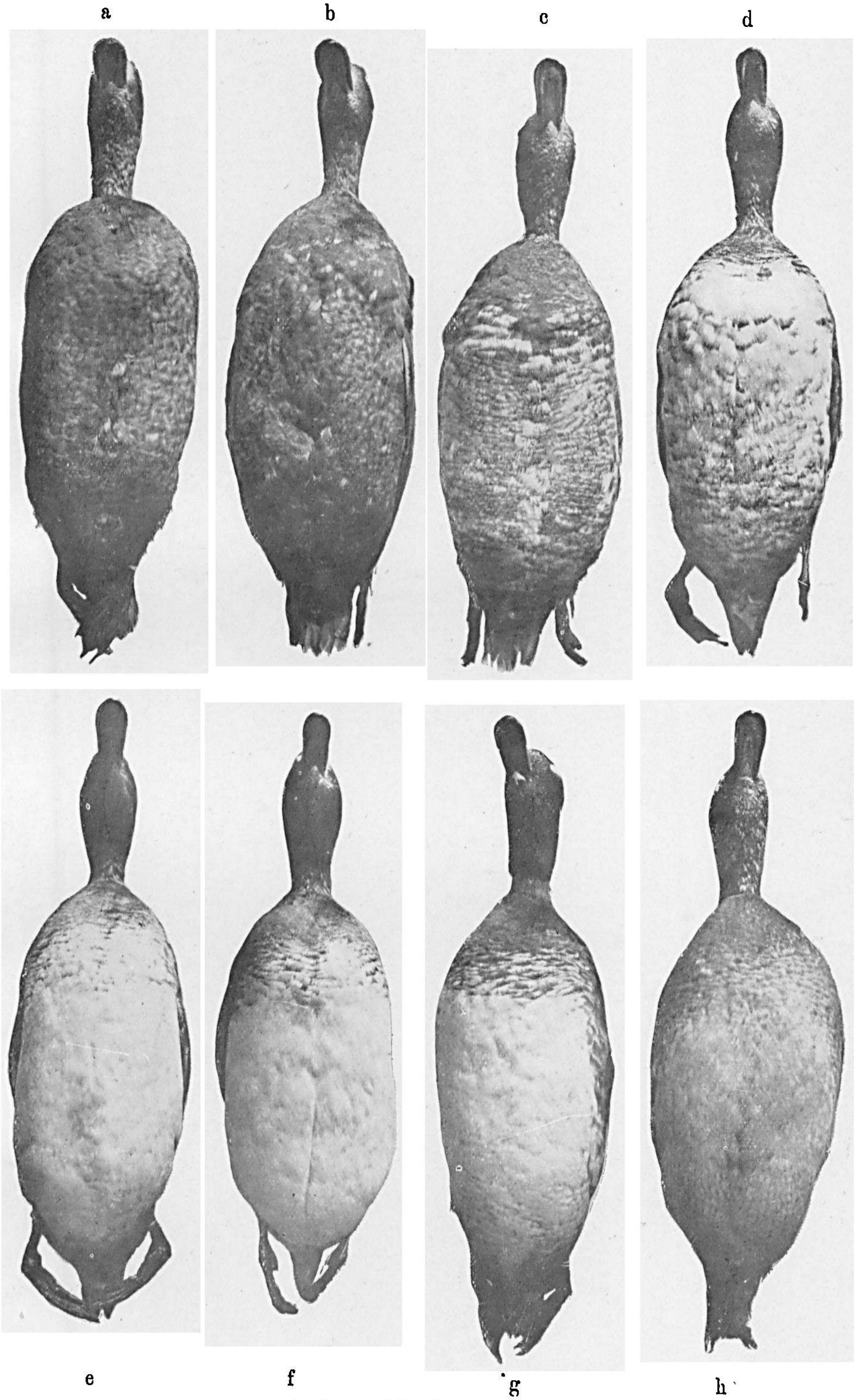
Fig. *e*, 10 March 1906, de Kaag. Winter plumage, adult specimen.

Fig *f*, 14 February 1906, Nieuwkoop. Winter plumage, adult specimen.

Fig. *g*, 17 March 1909, Nieuwkoop. Winter plumage, adult specimen.

Fig. *h*, 4 January 1906, Nieuwkoop. Young specimen, in winter.

Plate 6.



Fuligula fuligula (L.). ♀♀.